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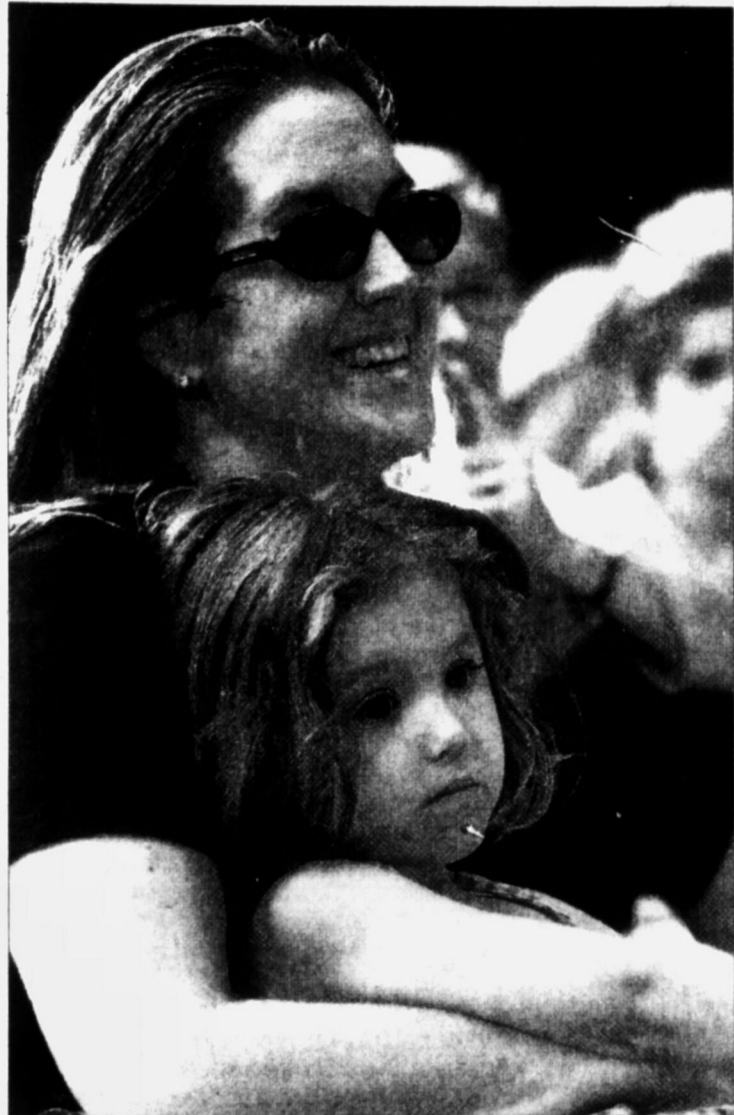
The Arlington Advocate

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SHAKESPEARE WITH A TWIST



The Trinity Repertory Company performed at Menotomy Rocks Park last Sunday as part of their annual summertime visit to Arlington. They performed Shakespeare's "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" in front of more than 600 people. Left, Laurie Smith and Anna Husson, 5, watch the performance. Above, Myxolydia Tyler and Drew Battles of Trinity Rep Company perform a scene from the Shakespeare classic. (Story, Page 28.)

STAFF PHOTOS BY
KAREN SPARACIO

Cat shelter closes doors

AfA decides to focus on clinic

BY LES MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

While Arlingtonians were preparing for Fourth of July cookouts and celebrations, the Alliance for Animals shelter in Arlington was finding a home for its last cat, Sabrina, on July 3.

The shelter, which has been in Arlington since 1994 and at its Massachusetts Avenue location in Arlington Heights since 2000, is closing its doors after connecting people with thousands of homeless cats.

Adoption Center Manager Joyce Porter Barringer estimated between 200 and 250 cats were adopted from the Arlington shelter annually. Around 50 percent of those felines were adopted by Arlingtonians, she said.

"A lot of lives have been saved," she said.

Barringer informed volunteers and rescuers about the

closure last month. Since then, the shelter has not been taking in homeless cats and was able to find homes for the remaining cats in the shelter.

"Arlington has been really quite wonderful. We have done many adoptions to Arlington residents and quite a number of rescues. Most are from the inner cities, but we do get some calls (from Arlington) where people have moved and left cats behind or someone knows of a (homeless) cat in the neighborhood," said Barringer.

AfA President Donna Bishop said the organization decided to close the Arlington shelter because of the economy and difficulties of operating two facilities (AfA also has a low-cost veterinary clinic in South Boston). AfA hopes to eventually find a building large enough to house both operations.

■ SEE **AFA**, PAGE 25

Board of Health warns Friendly's about violations

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Friendly's dodged a couple of bullets at Wednesday's Board of Health meeting, escaping a plan to remove seats and require stiff food safety certification programs in favor of in-house solutions.

Friendly's was closed last month after a worker was discovered to have hepatitis A and inspectors found improper food handling procedures and other health code violations, said Health Director Christine Connolly.

Food was handled without gloves; workers did not wash hands after contacting raw foods; eggs were left on counters, out of refrigerators in the cooking areas; and other violations were enough to have inspectors close the establishment. Since that time, Friendly's workers and managers have been certified in national food safety standards, according to the director.

The restaurant is now open. "There was a lack of food safety training and knowl-

edge," said Connolly.

Connolly asked the board to require all cooks at Friendly's be certified in safe food handling procedures. Generally, managers are trained in the certification and then supervise food service and handling in the restaurant. Connolly said the town has required other restaurants to certify cooks.

"How else am I going to know they all know food safety?" asked Connolly. "My experience in the past is that their training is not sufficient."

Friendly's District Manager Mark Weare told the board requiring all cooks to be certified would be nearly impossible. Cooks under the age of 18 are in school most of the year and can't attend the all-day seminar.

"We are going to lose all of our good employees who work two or three days a week," said Weare. "The only time a high school kid could go to training is in the summertime."

The board voted to allow

the in-house training through a consultant for all staff that handles food.

Connolly also asked the board to remove eight seats from the restaurant to combat overcrowding, which leads to staff taking shortcuts in food handling to speed up food service, she said.

"We noticed long lines in the parking lot for the take-out window and long lines out the front door for sit-down service. That led to food safety practices being compromised," said Connolly. "My recommendation to the board is to have them remove eight additional seats."

Board members disagreed with Connolly's assessment, saying removing seats won't solve the problem. Board member Mark Fingerle said the restaurant could easily cut service staff if there were fewer seats for patrons.

"Then you would have the same ratio problem as there is now," said Fingerle.

Weare told the board Friendly's would use con-

■ SEE **FRIENDLY'S**, PAGE 15

Director becomes hepatitis expert

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

With two cases of hepatitis A discovered and contained in Arlington, town Health Director Christine Connolly has learned more than most people would care to know about emergency clinics and managing anxious crowds. She's using that experience to help other communities cope with similar cases.

Connolly said 188 people came to the inoculation clinic on July 8, when they received shots of immune globulin. The clinic was held for patrons who ate at Not Your Average Joe's on June 30, when a food server infected with hepatitis A worked at the restaurant.

"At this point, we're done and we're focusing all our energy on making sure the restaurants in town under-

stand what's going on," said Connolly.

Several eateries have called the Health Department asking about the two recent cases of hepatitis A to see if there's anything specific they should guard against. Connolly said proper food handling practices are critical to preventing an outbreak.

In fact, Not Your Average Joe's was allowed to remain open after inspections showed the business followed all food handling protocols. A similar inspection at Friendly's found several violations of the health code, including improper food handling, leading to the ice cream shop's closure. Health officials had visited Friendly's last month after a report of an employee with hepatitis A. The town closed the restaurant until violations were corrected.

Connolly has now tackled two cases of hepatitis A in Arlington within a month. Because of that experience, Connolly has been called to consult with health officials in Stoneham and Boston as they respond to their own cases of hepatitis A.

The Friendly's case in June had thousands of people lining up for shots at the former Symmes Hospital. Connolly said her experience with such a large clinic and response was valuable to other communities.

"When Boston had their case and with us just finishing the biggest clinic in state history, they called to see if we had any advice," said Connolly. "The whole process has been overwhelming, but at the same time it was great to see the entire community pulling together."

■ SEE **CONNOLLY**, PAGE 15

INSIDE

Making DNC pretty

Arlington's Madison Floral will provide floral arrangements for some Democratic National Convention events later this month.

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Shadow has as many homes as lives

Feline is a cat of the people

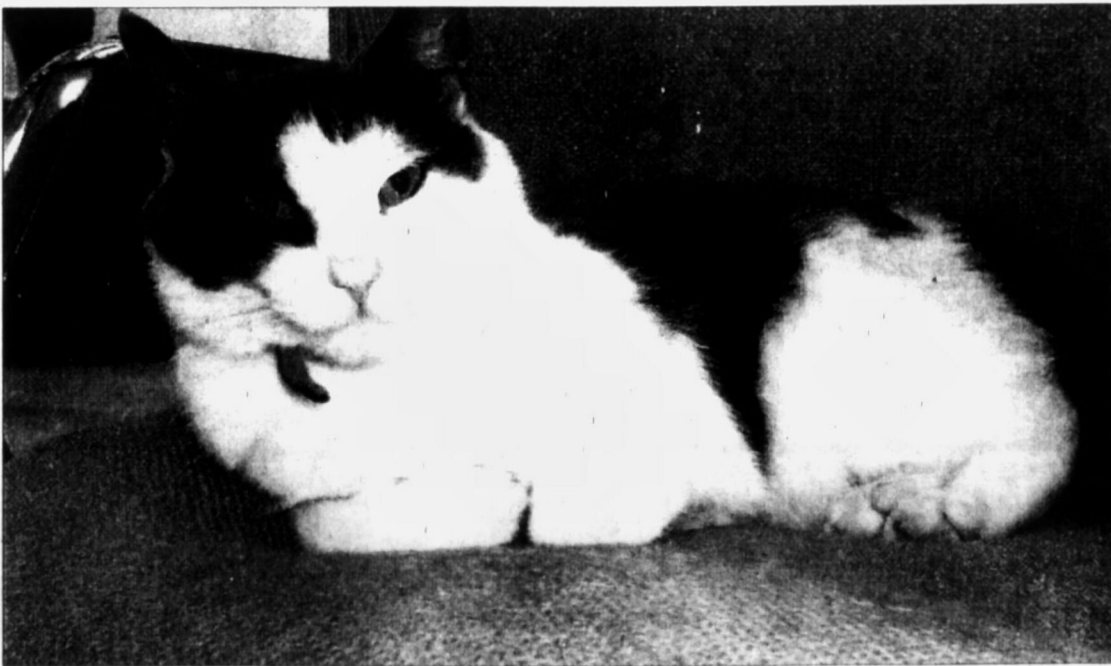
BY BROOKE LEISTER
STAFF WRITER

Each morning, he waits outside the door of his Maple Street home to be let in for breakfast. After filling his belly, he stays for a few minutes before leaving again.

Shadow is a cat about town. He has places to go and the yellow house he technically calls home isn't big enough to contain him.

On many mornings, he waits outside the Arlington Senior Center for the doors to open at 8 a.m. Once inside, he saunters upstairs. Lately, he's taken over a rolling office chair upholstered in peach fabric. It's the ideal spot to curl up his gray and white body for a cat nap.

"We all love him. He loves people and he doesn't miss a trick. He knows certain people who don't like cats and he stays away," said Gloria



Shadow curls up on his favorite chair in the Senior Center. The cat is a favorite in the Center area and a regular visitor to town buildings.

von Hyeburg, an Arlington resident and regular Senior Center visitor.

For those who work in Town Hall, Senior Center, Whittemore-Robbins House and Robbins Library, Shadow is a familiar face. Everyone knows his name and most

welcome his presence.

His owner, Becky Nicoloro said 9-year-old Shadow, who shares his home with the other family cat, the more reserved and older Patches, has always had an independent streak. Not long after moving to their Maple Street

home from East Arlington several years ago, Shadow wandered away.

He's been known to climb into the open windows of cars, as well as get himself trapped in people's homes. Despite a few run-ins with

■ SEE **SHADOW**, PAGE 25

Safe Haven bill heads to ballot

BY SUSAN BUSHEY
CNC STAFF WRITER

Supporters of the Baby Safe Haven Bill are taking their cause to the people.

Lexington residents Jean and Michael Morrissey first began their quest to save abandoned children when they arranged for the burial of a baby left in a cemetery.

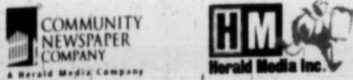
"Mid-November 2001 [is] when we became involved with the burial of Baby Rebecca Mary, found abandoned in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Dorchester," said Michael Morrissey, who, with his wife, Jean has lived in Lexington eight years and in Arlington for 18 years before that.

Since helping with the Dorchester baby's burial, the couple has been trying to get a safe havens bill through the House, Senate and governor, to no avail. Because the Legislature has been dragging its heels, they decided to head for the ballot box and individual

■ SEE **HAVEN**, PAGE 10



Community Newspaper Company



FOR THE RECORD

Naked man spotted at Menotomy Rocks

BY LES MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

A naked man who reportedly pleasures himself to female walkers at Menotomy Rocks Park was at it again last week.

Police received a call at around 10:30 a.m. last Friday. A woman said she was walking her dog when she saw a man around 50 feet away take off his pants and fondle himself. When she looked again, he got dressed quickly and fled the park to Jason Street.

The call was the fourth report of the naked man at the park within a month.

Police have increased patrols in the area and have received tips from residents.

The woman who reported last week's case described the man as between 30 to 35 years old, 5 feet, 11 inches tall, with an average build and dark wavy hair. The description varies slightly from previous reports, but police "are going on the assumption it is the same person," said Police Chief Fred Ryan.

"This sexual deviant conduct has us concerned," said Ryan. "We're taking this matter very seriously."

Arlington Police are also investigating whether an indecent exposure case near the Minuteman Trail was the same suspect. The Lexington incident took place around noontime last Friday.

Police catch alleged car burglar

BY LES MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

A Fremont Street man was arrested early Monday morning after he allegedly broke into cars in Arlington, but police are still investigating the breadth of the crime spree.

Police arrested Nery Arevalo, 21, 108B Fremont St., and charged him with receiving stolen property less than \$250, possessing burglarious instruments and possessing a Class D substance (marijuana).

A Webster Street resident reported a prowler shortly before 1 a.m. Monday. Police were unable to find the alleged prowler, but two hours later, Inspector James Kiernan was on patrol when he spotted a suspicious man on Webster Street, according to police.

Kiernan spoke to the man, Arevalo, and reportedly found stolen items, tools used in burglaries and marijuana on the suspect.

Police are now looking to reunite the

stolen items with their rightful owners. They also believe the Fremont Street man was involved in car burglaries on Franklin Street and Broadway that morning. Police also received another call from Webster Street last Thursday after a resident found his car was entered and CDs, loose change and a set of golf clubs were taken.

Police Chief Fred Ryan said Tuesday his department is investigating other car burglaries in East Arlington to see if Arevalo was connected to those as well.

POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

- Monday, July 5**
- At 9:56 a.m., police responded to Warren and Webster streets concerning a man sleeping in the backseat of a vehicle. An officer spoke to the man, who was OK.
 - At 8:37 p.m., the Police Department received a call after a woman reportedly was being followed by a man in a dark-colored sports utility vehicle on Massachusetts Avenue.
- Tuesday, July 6**
- At 8:28 a.m., an Arlington woman reported a past sexual assault, which she said took place in her residence. Police are investigating.
 - At 2:12 p.m., a Varnum Street resident called police after receiving threats on her answering machine. Police are investigating.

- Wednesday, July 7**
- At 9 a.m., police responded to a Massachusetts Avenue work site after someone stole construction tools.
 - At 10:50 a.m., a Littlejohn Street resident called police after noticing a suspicious substance inside a doll that was recently bought at a store. Police checked the doll and found it was OK.

- At 11:15 a.m., a Washington Street resident called police after seeing a man take measurements on the street. Police responded and found he was an NStar meter reader.

- Thursday, July 8**
- At 6:31 a.m., a Webster Street resident reported someone entered a parked motor vehicle and stole CDs, loose change and a set of golf clubs.
 - At 2:52 p.m., police responded to Sunnyside Avenue concerning a larceny by check. Police are investigating.

- Friday, July 9**
- At 12:55 p.m., an employee at a Massachusetts Avenue bank reported a larceny by check.
 - At 1:45 p.m., a man called police after reportedly being robbed at gunpoint on Bow Street. He said two men in an older model Cadillac asked for directions. The duo then allegedly robbed the man at gunpoint before fleeing the area. The suspects are described as a white male and a Hispanic male. Police are investigating.
 - At 3:10 p.m., police received a call about a missing Alfred Road woman. She had not contacted her parents, who were worried about her. Police are investigating.
 - At 9:07 p.m. a Teel Street resident reported someone threw eggs at a parked car.

- Saturday, July 10**
- At 1:12 p.m., police received a call about youths in the roadway in front of Arlington High School. Officers spoke to the youths, who were promoting a car wash, and asked them to stay on the sidewalk.

- Sunday, July 11**
- At 4:19 p.m., the Police Department received a call of a man lying on a Massachusetts Avenue lawn. An officer spoke to the man, who said he was just resting.

Meetings

Monday, July 19

- Board of Selectmen meets at 7:15 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers, Town Hall, second floor.

Tuesday, July 20

- Minuteman Regional High School Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the school, 758 Marrett Road, Lexington.
- Zoning Board of Appeals meets at 7:45 p.m. in Town Hall, second-floor hearing room.

Wednesday, July 21

- School Committee's Budget Subcommittee meets at 3 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Arlington High School, sixth floor.

Thursday, July 22

- Contributory Retirement Board meets at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Safety Building, second-floor meeting room.
- Arlington Historic District Commissions meet at 8 p.m. in the Whittemore-Robbins House.

Arrests

Wednesday, July 7

- At 11:01 p.m., police arrested Bliss Austin-Spooner, 38, 94 Grafton St., Apt. 2, and charged her with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and speeding. Sgt. Paul Conroy observed a speeding car on Summer Street. He pulled over the driver and found Austin-Spooner had a suspended license. Conroy made the arrest.

Thursday, July 8

- At 3:36 p.m., police arrested Fritz Nmi Olmande, 43, 11 Newton Court, Apt. 45, Cambridge, and charged him with uttering a false prescription. Officer Corey Rateau responded to Stop and Shop Pharmacy concerning a man passing a false prescription of Percocet. Officers stopped Olmande on Massachusetts Avenue and Rateau made the arrest.
- At 10:29 p.m., police arrested Frederick Dewan, 18, 8 Endicott Road, and charged him with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and speeding. Sgt. Paul Conroy saw a speeding car on Mystic Street and pulled over the vehicle at the Winchester line. The sergeant found Dewan was driving with a suspended license and made the arrest.

Saturday, July 10

- At 9:26 a.m., police arrested Gary M. Manuel, 33, 81 Trowbridge St., and charged him with assault. Officer Dennis Mahoney made the arrest.

Monday, July 12

- At 3:27 a.m., police arrested Nery Arevalo, 21, 108B Fremont St., and charged him with receiving stolen property less than \$250, possessing burglarious instruments and possessing a Class D substance (marijuana). Inspector James Kiernan made the arrest.



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The Arlington Advocate is published weekly on Thursday by Community Newspaper Company, 150 Baker Avenue Ext., Concord, MA 01742. Periodical postage paid at Concord, MA and additional mailing offices (CNC). Annual cost of home delivery via mail is \$43 in-town, \$60 out-of-town.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Circulation Department, 33 New York Ave., Framingham, MA 01701.



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Plan could jumpstart school rebuild effort

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The anticipated approval of a new school building program at the State House may mean movement in Arlington's stalled rebuild effort.

Town Meeting voted to go ahead with construction of the new Dallin School this year, but plans for the Thompson and Stratton schools — the two buildings remaining in the school rebuild — have not been filed with the state. No new schools plans are being accepted while a new formula and program are devised.

Under the proposed plan, the state would float a \$1 billion, long-term bond to help clear the current backlog of school projects on the state-wide list. Over time, the state will dedicate tax revenue specifically for school projects. The state will fully fund the revenue stream by 2011.

Once the current list is cleared, the state will begin accepting new applications for school construction projects. According to state Rep. Jim Marzilli (D-Arlington), the state will stop compiling

a list of school projects. Instead, towns will submit plans for review and the state will return any proposals that can't be funded that year.

"It would lift the moratorium in a couple of years and fund virtually all of the schools on the waiting list in three-and-a-half years," said Marzilli.

Marzilli said the schools currently listed will receive the percentage already settled on by the state. For Arlington, that is 63 percent state reimbursement. Future projects, however, may not receive the same level of funding from the School Building Assistance program.

Currently, the SBA program has cities and towns submit construction plans to the state, which evaluates the need for the proposal and places it on a list of projects to complete.

There are more than 420 schools on the list. Two years ago, the state declared a moratorium on new submissions until a new funding formula could be devised.

Gov. Mitt Romney presented a similar plan earlier

in the year. Under the Romney plan, the state would float a 40-year bond and pay for projects up front.

According to Town Treasurer John Bilafer, the change in formula is good news from the state.

"No matter how the payment is handled, it will at least start the process going," said Bilafer.

Bilafer this week issued \$10 million in bond anticipation notes (BANs) for the construction of the Dallin. The town received a 1.52 percent rate on the notes and will only pay interest on the debt. Once the school is completed and state funds start flowing into Arlington, the town will finance the project with bonds.

"I floated the whole amount now because I know rates are about to go up," said Bilafer.

The changes mean money for the Peirce and Dallin schools will come to town relatively soon. Once the state-wide list is cleared, the state is expected to lift the moratorium and the town's rebuild will once again move forward.

Board will review whether to condemn house next month

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Health had a technicality prevent it from condemning a Bow Street home Wednesday.

The board failed to post a notice in The Advocate for the hearing to condemn the house at 60 Bow St. for nuisance debris outside the home. The matter will come forward again next month for an official vote.

The reprieve gives homeowner Pat Lingley time to clean up the property, which would negate the need for condemning the house.

Lingley said she was unaware the hearing was to condemn the house.

"There are pretty extenuating circumstances here," said Lingley.

According to Health Director Christine Connolly,

the property has been a problem since a fire in 1999. Lingley has kept items from the home all around the yard. Initially, the belongings were kept in storage containers, but the town required the containers' removal, said Connolly.

Lingley got rid of the containers and instead covered the items with a tarp. That tarp collects rainwater and creates stagnant water pools, which mosquitoes use to breed. The coverage also allows for rodent and insect habitation. Neighbors have complained of a rodent problem and unsightly and potentially hazardous conditions at the house, said Connolly.

"There are concerns about West Nile virus," said Connolly.

Lingley said she needs to keep the items around her house while she continues to

fight her insurance company on the fire claim.

"It's not garbage or rubbish," said Lingley. "These are things I need for the lawsuit."

Because of the notice snafu, the hearing was tabled until next month. Board members, Connolly and Town Counsel John Maher urged Lingley to find proper storage for her belongings in the meantime. Once the property is cleared of the clutter, it won't be condemned, they said.

"I would certainly like to see that," said Connolly.

Lingley said she was "taken aback" at the hearing and would try to fit her belongings in the garage and screen house on the property.

"I've been through hell. It's taken three years to get this house back," said Lingley.

ON CAMPUS

Bowdoin College

Marie Masse was recently awarded the James Stacey Coles summer research fellowship during Bowdoin College's honors day.

The fellowship is named in honor of a former Bowdoin

president. It is awarded to students for substantial participation in a scientific research project under the direction of a faculty member who is inde-

pendently interested in the area under student.

Masse is a graduate of Arlington High School, Class of 2002.

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Park and Rec apologizes for error

Groups no longer banned from rink

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The Park and Recreation Commission rescinded an April vote to ban two adult groups from the Veterans Memorial Rink while upholding another.

The over-40 hockey group was banned after its members were discovered drinking alcohol inside the building. Alcohol and drugs are banned from the facility.

Two other groups, led by Steve Mansfield and Kevin Barbara, were also cited for alcohol use and banned, but the evidence supporting those claims was challenged by the two groups.

Recreation Director Jon Jalbert acknowledged Tuesday the evidence was not strong enough to prove the two groups were responsible and recommended they be readmitted to the rink. Jal-

bert also apologized for the event.

"These two groups are not in violation of the alcohol policy," said Jalbert. "There is no proof it came from these particular groups."

Commission Chairman Joe Carabello said the two groups are in good standing within the rink community and the town encourages them to continue to use the facility.

"On behalf of the commission, we apologize for the confusion," said Carabello.

Commissioner Tom Caccavaro said he brought the initial evidence forward and apologized there was confusion in who was responsible. He apologized to Mansfield, who attended the meeting.

Caccavaro also took the time to reaffirm his position there is a zero-tolerance policy for substance use at the rink.

"I will not tolerate drinking or drugs at that facility," said

'I don't want to be in a position where we are denying access to this resource when the information has not been substantiated.'

LESLIE MAYER, PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER

Caccavaro. "I would pursue it if it were my own brother."

Commissioner Leslie Mayer said she was concerned two organizations had been tangled in the issue without strong evidence proving wrongdoing. She offered the vote to rescind the bans and to offer an official apology from the commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayer said she expects accusations to be thoroughly

examined and proven before they come before the board.

"I don't want to be in a position where we are denying access to this resource when the information has not been substantiated," said Mayer.

Mansfield said the apologies were appreciated. If the situation leads to better controls of groups' use at the facility and better monitoring, it could have a positive outcome, he said.

Ideas like signing in for locker rooms after an inspection of the area, could help control the problem, he added.

"There are a lot of positives that could come from this," said Mansfield.

While the policies should be tightened to better control drinking, Arlington's rink already does a reasonably good job, said Mansfield.

"It's not like a lot of other rinks in the area," said Mansfield.

Chase formally announces candidacy for Congress

Ken Chase, the Republican candidate for the 7th congressional district, announced his campaign against Ed Markey, D-Malden, last week with stops throughout the district, which stretches from Winthrop to Framingham.

The LNG tanks provided a background for his speech on homeland security during his stop in Everett. Chase emphasized the fact "we are the target of foreign enemies who boast that they want to kill all Americans, all Jews, and kill all Christians," and that, "the only possible response is to stand and confront it and defeat it."

Chase outlined the steps necessary to protect the district, and pointed to Markey as a "Johnnie Come Lately" when it comes to issues of "keeping our families safe from terrorist attacks."

Chase continued with an issue near and dear to his heart: immigration. Chase said, "It's (not) too much to ask

of any person who would come to our great land to do what (his) wife did and do what (his) mother did: stand in line, fill out the paperwork and enter once you've been given permission to do so."

Chase returned to his alma mater, Malden Catholic High School, for his second speech, which focused on education. Chase gave his support to President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind Act and made suggestions for further improvements in education.

As the co-owner and director of the French and Spanish School, Chase sees everyday "what works (and doesn't work) in a classroom." He said, "Teachers need to be supported in curriculum development and compensated well and those who don't perform well need to find another profession."

Chase added "The positive impact great teachers have on our children can

never be overstated. To maintain our high standard of living — and good-paying jobs — in a competitive world, we need to strive for superb education of our children.... The jobs of the future require great schools today."

Born and raised in Medford, and a former homeowner in the North End of Boston and Belmont, Chase hopes to convey to voters that he won't be a "Johnnie Come Lately" like Ed Markey, always showing up after a tragedy with great advice. Already displaying a level of aggressiveness on the campaign trail with his frequent "meet the voter" events, Chase is kicking his campaign into even higher gear as he loads up his schedule with events across the district. One of his favorites is commuter rail stations at 5:45 a.m.

More information is available at www.chaseforcongress.com.

Irish American Club hosts Cooney

Andy Cooney will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13 at the American Legion, Post #45 at 321 Winthrop St., Medford. The event will be sponsored by the Irish American Club of Arlington.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased by calling Judy Hyland at

781-646-0748 or send a check made out to the Irish American Club of Arlington and send it to Hyland at 54 Webcowet Road, Arlington, MA 02474.

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If you are injured on the job and your employer challenges your claim for workers' compensation, you must prove that your injury was at least partly caused by your job. In such cases, it is best to enlist the services of a lawyer versed in workers' compensation law. The next step will likely involve seeing a doctor who can verify your injury. It may also be necessary to seek second and even third opinions. If your employer ultimately denies your claim, then you and your lawyer will likely file an appeal with the local state agency. To be on the safe side, little time should be lost in filing your original claim, and, if necessary, subsequent appeal.

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The Arlington Advocate

Business

Floral designer will bring beauty to DNC

Madison Floral chosen as vendor for convention

BY BROOKE LEISTER
STAFF WRITER

While the average commuter may worry about traffic congestion and re-routed streets during the Democratic National Convention, Edison Chae, owner of Madison Floral, Inc., worries how he will deliver his floral arrangements.

Not only will many of the deliveries have to be made in the wee morning hours of 2 and 3 a.m., but he worries about getting through tight security zones.

"How long will it take? Will I be sitting there for four hours or four minutes?" he wondered.

About a year ago, Chae and his wife, Marla, co-owner of the Arlington floral design company, learned they were selected as a DNC vendor. To qualify, businesses had to be certified as a minority-owned

vendor, a woman-owned business or a small Boston business. Chae, 36, is Korean.

"Because we also work with so many hotels and event places in Boston, it was a natural progression," he said.

Madison Floral opened in Arlington in 2000. Previously operated out of an East Arlington location, Chae moved the design studio to 1165 Massachusetts Ave. last month. The business caters to events and does not provide walk-in service.

For the DNC, held July 26-29 in Boston, Chae, of Maynard, and his staff are working directly with hotels and event planners. Madison Floral will supply flowers to the Museum of Fine Arts, the State House and the Parkman House — to name a few locations, during convention week.

And while he has several orders already, he is expecting many more as the date approaches.

"I think we will get double the amount of booked business within the last week (before the DNC)," he said.

For his staff, this means working around the clock in the days leading up to and during the convention. Depending on the flowers used, the expected 500 to 700 pieces will be made one to five days in advance. While he has no requests for red, white and blue themed arrangements, he plans to create displays befitting New England. He plans to use roses, hydrangeas, calla lilies, orchids and lots of ivy.

"It's very New England," Chae said of ivy. "They like the idea of using lots of greens and ivy."

Even with advance floral preparation, Chae still worries about logistics. Until the DNC is actually here, no one can say with certainty what the week will really be like.

"This is not a single event of one size, it's a series of multiple parties going on. I don't



STAFF PHOTO BY KAREN SPARACIO

Maria Chae designs a floral arrangement for Madison Floral, which is supplying arrangements for venues in Boston during the Democratic National Convention later this month.

know how it's going to shake up," Chae said. "Without knowing the details and the specifics of getting from point A to point B... we don't know what's going to happen."

Despite the headaches and uncertainty, convention week is a chance for the Arlington floral shop to shine.

"It will be great exposure

to be able to showcase the work to the Boston market and to show the delegates the flowers and styles of New England," Chae said.

Summer concert series kickoff a success

"It was a night oh what a night/It was it really was such a night/The moon was bright oh how so bright/It was it really was such a night/The night was alight with stars above..." Written by Lincoln Chase and sung by The King, that captures the magic of our first Arlington at Night summer concert on July 7.

The weather? Perfect. The music? Rockin' as Jump City kicked off the series once again. The crowd? Hop-pin' as about 600 people — all ages — soaked up the music and the summer, dancing on the sidewalks, eating popcorn and floating balloons from concert sponsor Mirak Automotive Group.

Join us Wednesday evenings in July (rain dates are the next night) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the Jefferson Cutter House Lawn.

Robbins Library and business owners

Small business owners and those contemplating new ventures can lay claim to a valuable business asset right here in Arlington Center — the Robbins Library Reference Desk and the librarians who staff it.

Got a question? They can help you find the answer. Need to know how to navigate online professional resources? They can show you. That's not all.

Last month, Maryellen Loud, library director, and Nancy Gentile, head of adult services, invited me to the library to get a sense of what services the library can offer small businesses in town. When you are at the library next time, check out the new business display in the Reference Room.

Now the new fiscal year has begun, the library is adding titles to the business collection, which already includes books on home-



Chamber of Commerce

MICHELE M. MEAGHER

based business, using the Internet to promote your business, books dealing with personnel issues, sales, direct marketing as well as women in business.

This fall, look for the Chamber and Robbins to collaborate on a breakfast seminar showing you how to get the most out of this free and valuable tool called the library.

Kudos

Chamber members were well represented in the Community Newspaper Company's Readers Choice Awards 2004 in June. Congratulations to the following members for regional gold, silver and bronze as well as the #1 Choice and Honorable Mentions in Arlington:

Appliance Store: R.W. Shattuck Ace Hardware — Honorable Mention

Auto Service Repair: The Silver and the #1 Choice — Colonial Auto Service; Dudley Street Auto Body — Honorable Mention

Bagel Shops: Bronze and #1 Choice — bagels by US.

Bakery: The #1 Choice — Lakota Bakery

Bar: #1 Choice — Not Your Average Joe's; Flora and Jimmy's Steer House — Honorable Mentions.

Book Store: Honorable Mentions — The Book Rack (Arlington parents of school-aged children, look no further than Medford Street to buy your children books on the Arlington School reading lists) and Unicorn Books, newly moved to Porter Square in Cambridge.

Camera Shop: Honorable Men-

tion — New England Camera

Community Bank: Cambridge Savings — Silver and the #1 Choice, while Citizens Bank and Boston Federal Savings Bank — Honorable Mentions.

Day Spa: Regional Gold and #1 Choice — Horizons Salon and Day Spa, which also garnered the Bronze Regional Favorite and #1 Choice for Hair Salon.

Deli: The Gold and #1 Choice — D'Agostino's Deli, which also received #1 Choices for Butcher Shop and Caterer too.

Fish Market: Johnny's Foodmaster — Honorable Mention

Florist: #1 Choice — Anderson Florists of Arlington; Arlington Florist — Honorable Mention

Frame Shop: #1 Choice was Playtime Inc., which also received an Honorable Mention in the Toy Store category

Hardware Store: The Chamber swept the category with #1 Choice — Wanamaker Hardware Inc.; Honorable Mentions — Arlington Coal & Lumber and R.W. Shattuck Ace Hardware

Health Club: The #1 Choice — Gold's Gym

Home Decorating Store: The #1 Choice — City Paint.

Ice Cream Shop: Both the Silver and the #1 Choice — Brigham's Ice Cream; Honorable Mention — J.P. Licks.

Indian Restaurant: Gold and #1 Choice — Punjab; Bombay Classic Indian Cuisine — Honorable Mention.

Italian Restaurant: the #1 Choice — La Buona Vita; Ristorante Olivio — Honorable Mention

Japanese Restaurant: The Bronze and the #1 Choice — Mr. Sushi

Jewelry Store: A Silver Regional Favorite and #1 Choice — Swanson's Jewelers Inc.

Manicure/Pedicure: Regional Gold and the #1 Choice — Horizons once again.

Optical Shop: Silver Regional favorite and #1 Choice — Ronald A. Riesz Dispensing Optician

Restaurant for Dinner: Chamber members swept this category too. Receiving another Bronze and the #1 Choice — Jimmy's Steer House, which also was voted #1 Choice for Seafood Restaurant too. Honorable Mentions — Not Your Average Joe's, Flora and Olé Mexican Grill.

Restaurant for Lunch: A Bronze and #1 Choice — Jimmy's Steer House; Not Your Average Joe's — Honorable Mention

Restaurant for Steak: The Gold and the #1 Choice — Jimmy's Steer House.

Retirement Living Residence: Country Club Heights — Honorable Mention in Woburn

Sporting Goods Store: Holovak & Coughlin — Honorable Mention

Video Store: A Silver Regional Favorite and #1 Choice — Video Horizons Inc.

In the Northwest of Boston Regional Category:

Hospital: New member Winchester Hospital received a Silver.

Theatre: The Capitol Theatre received a Silver.

Family Entertainment: The Regent Theatre received a Bronze.

Michèle M. Meagher is executive director at the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. Her column appears monthly in The Advocate. The Chamber's office is regularly open Tuesday-Friday from noon to 3 p.m. Send your comments to Michèle M. Meagher, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, One Whittemore Park, Arlington, MA 02474. Chamber members, e-mail your news to mmeagher@arlcc.org.

Bank sold

Customers of the Medford Cooperative Bank will be seeing a different name on their checks, monthly statements and deposit slips after the bank was recently sold to Brookline Bank for approximately \$65 million.

The announcement came July 7 after the presidents of Mystic Financial Inc. and Brookline Bancorp Inc., the companies in charge of the two banks, finalized their agreement. The final price of the deal may go up or down slightly depending on the per share price of Brookline Bank common stock.

President and Chief Executive Officer of Mystic Financial Inc. Ralph Dunham said Medford Co-op wanted to remain independent, but developments in the industry made it difficult to compete with "deep pocketed competitors."

"No banks are too big or too small to be a victim of consolidation," he said.

Dunham said if a merger was going to happen, he wanted the bank to go to a company like Brookline Bank, which he said is "very similar" to Medford Co-op.

"This is as close a match as we were able to find," said Dunham.

Randy Holland, who does public relations and marketing for Medford Co-op, said she was "quite surprised" to hear about the merger, but is looking forward to the new bank coming in.

— By CNC Staff writer, Jesse Kawa



Dr. John Lasker, DMD is pleased to announce that **Elis Paparisto, DDS**, has joined the practice as an associate.

Ms. Paparisto is a University of Oklahoma Dental School graduate and a Belmont resident.

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

by Robert Bowes, CRB, CRS

SELLING THEMSELVES SHORT?

Sellers attempting to sell their homes on their own may think they will maximize their profits by cutting out the middle person. The 2003 National Association of Realtors "Profile of Home Buyers & Sellers" survey, however, clearly indicates that sellers who sold their homes with the help of real estate professionals sold their homes at higher prices than those who sold their homes without professional assistance. Perhaps the most important factor in selling a home is pricing it right. If the asking price is set too high, many potential buyers may be lost. If the price is set too low, sellers are giving away a portion of their home's value. Real estate professionals value properties daily with complete, firsthand knowledge.

Additionally, a real estate professional develops a marketing plan for your home and will generally prescreen and accompany qualified buyers through your property. When you are ready to sell your home or property, call BOWES/PENNELL & THOMPSON GMAC REAL ESTATE at (781) 648-3500. We are conveniently located at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington.

Hint: Nationally, 86% of home buyers rely on real estate agents for their purchases.



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College expenses and 529 Plans

Last fall, the cost of freshman year at Boston College was \$38,800. This figure includes tuition, room and board, fees, books and personal expenses.

Other private colleges in the area are about the same. Tufts, Holy Cross, Boston University, Northeastern, Harvard, MIT — all are above \$38,000 a year and a few are more than \$40,000.

Sticker shock? You bet. And these costs are up an average of 6 percent from 2002-2003.

How should families with children approach the college savings challenge?



Columnist

JIM THOMPSON

residence, you may lose any state tax benefits.

See savingforcollege.com for an excellent description of the plans available around the country. This site even rates the states' 529 plans, much as Morningstar rates mutual funds. The top rating? Five graduation caps.

Why 529 Plans?

Tax advantages. These plans offer tax-deferred growth in the years leading up to college and tax-free distribution of the earnings to pay qualified educational expenses.

However, 529 plans are subject to enrollment, maintenance, administrative and management fees and expenses. Nonqualified withdrawals are subject to federal and state income tax and a 10 percent penalty. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Not just for kids

If you are thinking of going back to college or graduate school for a mid-life career change, you can set up a 529 Plan for yourself.

Grandparents too

A grandparent can also set up a 529 account for the benefit of the grandchild. Each grandparent can make up to \$11,000 in annual contributions into the account before triggering gift taxes. Or each grandparent (or anyone for that matter) may make a one-time gift of up to \$55,000 without triggering the gift tax. Be sure to consult a financial or tax professional before making gifts of this nature.

Ask for help

Finally, instead of the usual birthday or holiday gifts, ask your relatives and friends to make gifts to your child's college savings fund over the years.

Now that's a gift worth giving.

Jim Thompson is a financial and retirement planner who lives in Arlington. A graduate of the Boston University Program for Financial Planners, he worked for the AARP in Washington D.C. for 18 years. Thompson is a financial consultant with Harbour Financial Group in Boston and offers securities through Linsco/Private Ledger (LPL), Member NASD/SIPC. Feel free to contact him at jthompson@hbrfin.com or 617-723-3595 x17.

BY ANNE-MARIE SELTZER
CORRESPONDENT

Don't call Didier Baugniet a chef.

"Chef is a glorified name for a good cook and I consider myself a cook," he said.

Since July 2002, Didier and his wife, Cesidia (Cid), have owned Scutra, a small, cozy restaurant with European ambiance and menu. Although it is located at the corner of Mill and Summer streets, away from the hustle and bustle of Mass. Ave., the couple are proving a restaurant at this location can succeed.

"Our customers tell us we're a Boston restaurant that isn't in Boston," said Cid.

The name means flat dish in Latin. "I've always believed there are two letters in the alphabet that have an attractive curve — s and f," said Didier. "I found the word while doing research at the Waltham Library."

The menu features appetizers, salads, entrees, and desserts. Seafood, poultry, and vegetarian dishes are always on the regular menu, and there are three or four daily specials. "I tend to get bored easily, so I change the menu frequently," explained Didier. "We have a lot of regulars who come twice a month, and they need to have different selections."

According to the couple, the food at Scutra is "Mediterranean with a European flair. Every dish has a base of stew, either cold or warm."

The menu, which uses produce purchased daily from Busa Farm, reflects Didier's European experiences.

"It is my trade. We want to offer our guests a menu with fine ingredients. Giving good value is important because we



Food & Thought

ANNE-MARIE SELTZER

are still a neighborhood restaurant. Quantity, value and taste are the most important considerations," he said.

Customer service is also key. It is not unusual for Didier to come into the dining room and talk with the guests.

"I'm friendly and I like to have that relationship," he said. "It means something to customers to know that the cook has enjoyed preparing their meal."

Recent menu items featured garlic butter gratinéed mussels with shaved Parmesan cheese (appetizer), grilled swordfish, vine ripened tomatoes and oven-roasted Boston bibb on blood orange oil dressing (entrée) and flavored crème brûlée with coconut macaroons (dessert).

Appetizer prices range from \$4.50 to \$7, while entrees average \$16 to \$25. Desserts cost \$6.50. Beer and wine are available.

Added Cid, "Our most popular items are the mussels, stuffed artichoke baked in a tomato sauce with basil, which is a special, and tian of braised and sautéed vegetables with complimenting starches, which is our vegetarian dish. We try to stay mainstream with our regular menu and offer unusual items as specials."

Those specials have included Kobe steak, homemade Gravlax and a Greek dish called Kataifi, a shredded phyllo dough with a stuffing.

A Belgian native, Didier drew his culinary inspiration from his grandmother, who was a chef for a noble family

in Brussels. He studied in his native country for six years and was recruited by Hilton International. For 13 years, he worked in Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States.

He never wanted to have his own restaurant.

"I wanted to be an executive chef for a five-star hotel like a Hilton. But in the United States, the executive chef is seen as someone with a lot of management and business experience," explained Didier. "I did go in that direction — the numbers fascinated me — but I lost something. I went into this business because I love to cook. When you have your own place, you have no limits. We decided that if we were going to work long hours, it might as well be for ourselves."

Cid was born in Italy and moved to America at age 5. She earned a degree in hotel and restaurant management from Endicott College and studied nutrition at Framingham State College because she wanted to become a dietician.

"Maybe some day," she said. Her restaurant experience includes the front and back of the house.

"I've been a waitress and a manager, but I think more like a waitress," she said. "Didier can be meticulous, but I'm probably on the softer side. I treat our employees the way I'd want to be treated."

The couple met in 1990 while opening the Vista Hotel in Waltham for Hilton. They married in 1992 and are the

parents of Dylan, 7, and Alexia, 6.

"My greatest fear of marriage was cooking for my husband. How do you cook for a chef?" she admitted. "I have about five special entrees and I love to whip up pastries. My favorite is ricotta cheese-cake."

But formal dinners are out, given the restaurant's demands and the children's schedules.

"You don't ever leave the business behind. I take care of the children; Didier handles most of the restaurant responsibilities. We grill a lot at home and eat fast food," said Cid. "When we do go out, we frequent family places."

Beginning Sept. 25, the restaurant will be open on Sundays for brunch and early dinner. Didier has begun planning the

brunch menu, which will undoubtedly include waffles made on his grandmother's waffle iron.

According to Cid, the rest of the brunch offerings will have "Didier's twist and flair. The best reason to come to Scutra is the food. My husband can make something out of nothing."

Scutra is located at 92 Summer St. Business hours are Tuesday to Thursday from 5:30 to 9 p.m.; Friday from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Off-street parking. Catering is available. The restaurant is available for private functions. Reservations accepted for any size party, any evening. Call 781-316-1816.

'Our customers tell us we're a Boston restaurant that isn't in Boston.'

CESIDIA BAUGNIET

Mirak, Merchants leasing reach agreement

Merchants Leasing, the Singer Family corporate vehicle leasing company located in Hooksett, N.H., and the Mirak family corporate vehicle leasing company located in Arlington have reached an agreement where by Merchants will acquire all vehicles and assume all leasing contracts of Mirak Leasing. This transaction is scheduled to close on July 31.

"We are very comfortable selling the family business to Merchants Leasing," said Charles Mirak, president of Mirak Leasing. "The similarities between our two family-owned leasing companies has made reaching this agreement a natural move. Merchants shares Mirak's appreciation for total customer service and its commitment to offering a quality product in a timely and affordable

fashion. The transition for our existing customers should be a comfortable and efficient process."

Negotiations began in December 2003, said Philip Ryan, CEO of Merchants Automotive Group, the parent company for Merchants Leasing.

"On behalf of the Singer family and the entire Merchants franchise, I am pleased to announce our company's agreement with Mirak Leasing. Mirak has many qualities that parallel Merchants Leasing's business policies, lease portfolio and philosophy and we are sure that joining the two businesses will prove to be a successful venture," said Ryan.

Mirak Leasing is a privately owned, family run business servicing nonprofits, associations, educational and gov-

ernmental organizations and businesses with various size fleets. Both leasing companies have a national and regional presence and offer the same variety of cars, trucks, vans and SUVs as well as ancillary services.

Mirak Leasing is located at 75 Summer St., and has been owned and operated by the Mirak family for six decades. A member of the National Vehicle Leasing Association, Mirak offers both commercial and retail leases and proudly provides one-stop-shopping to all leasing customers.

Merchants Leasing is a nationwide provider of tailored corporate vehicle leasing programs and value-added services to businesses, associations, educational and governmental organizations.

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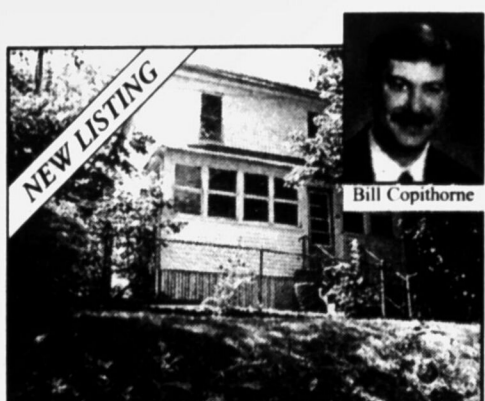
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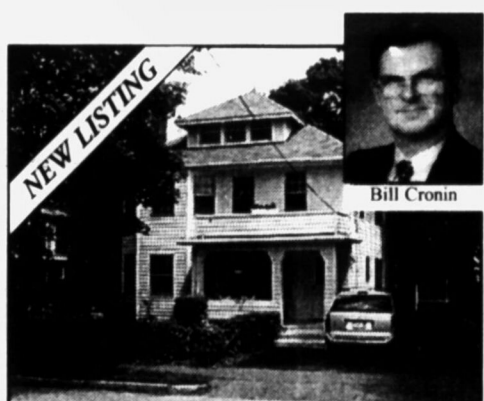
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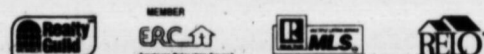


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Housing Corp. opens 12th two-family

Volunteers helped in community effort

The Housing Corporation of Arlington The Housing Corporation of Arlington recently hosted an open house at their new home at 36-38 Sherborn St.

The Sherborn Street property is the 12th two-family purchased by the Housing Corporation of Arlington, providing 24 affordable units for qualified families. The Housing Corporation of Arlington is a community based nonprofit corporation whose primary mission is to increase the supply of affordable housing in Arlington.

The Executive Director of the Housing Corporation of Arlington David Levy opened the ceremonies with a brief description of the corporation's programs.

"I am especially proud of today's open house as the result of the work of hundreds of volunteers today allows us to offer two new units of safe,

affordable housing to Arlington residents," said Levy.

The Sherborn Street property was bought directly from the owners and rehabilitated through the generosity of Feinmann Remodeling and the Arlington Partnership on Affordable Housing with the support and participation of members of Temple Shir Tikvah, Calvary United Methodist, Pleasant Street Congregational, First Parish Unitarian Universalist and St. Eulalia's.

Speaking at the ceremony, Arlington Selectman Charles Lyons praised the work of the Housing Corporation of Arlington and pointed out how desperate the need for affordable housing has become.

"Under the administration

of President Gerald Ford, the federal government was spending \$80 million to encourage affordable housing. While our population has grown since then, the government is currently spending \$30 million on the problem," he said.

'I grew up in this neighborhood, but I never thought I could afford to live here.'

CHRISTINE HEALY

"Thanks to the creative work of the Housing Corporation of Arlington, twenty-four families are able to afford to live in our town. I could not be more

proud of this organization." Cambridge Savings Bank President Kevin Fitzgerald echoed Lyons comment.

"Cambridge Savings Bank is proud to be part of the Housing Corporation of Arlington's programs. In the entire commonwealth of Massachusetts, the two communities that have done the most for affordable housing are Arlington and Cambridge. We

are proud to assist in their efforts," he said.

Also participating in the open house was Tom Beard from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership who said the Housing Corporation of Arlington is setting the standard for other communities to follow and Peter Garbati of the North Shore Consortium, which distributes federal HOMES funding for affordable housing projects.

Garbati added Arlington, through the work of the Housing Corporation of Arlington, was visionary in joining the North Shore Consortium to be able to access the federal funds needed for affordable housing programs.

Director of Housing for the town of Arlington and Treasurer of the Housing Corporation of Arlington Laura Wiener spoke of her pride in watching the program grow from two to 24 units in just three years.

The most poignant moment of the open house was the introduction of Christine Healy and her children



The Housing Corporation of Arlington recently opened a home on Sherborn Street, its 12th two-family. From left, President of Cambridge Savings Bank Kevin Fitzgerald; Collin Healy; Peter Garbati of the North Shore Homes Consortium; Daniel Healy and his mother, Christine Healy; Tom Beard from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership; and the Executive Director of the Housing Corporation of Arlington, David Levy.

Collin and Daniel, who will be new tenants on Sherborn Street.

"I grew up in this neighborhood" Healy stated, "but I never thought I could afford to live here. Thanks to the

Housing Corporation of Arlington, now my children can be raised in my hometown as well. Thank you for caring so much about us."

Submitted by the Housing Corporation of Arlington.

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Two teens charged with arson on Drake Road

Two young men were arrested recently on charges stemming from fires they allegedly set in Arlington and Lexington.

On Monday, June 21 at 4:11 a.m., Arlington Fire and Police responded to a motor vehicle fire in the parking lot at 37-Drake Road.

Upon arrival, firefighters found a 1996 Ford Ranger pickup truck fully involved in fire. Two vehicles parked on either side also sustained fire damage.

After the fire was extinguished, fire investigators determined the fire was of suspicious origin and ordered the vehicle towed to a secure storage lot for further investigation in the daylight. Police officers noticed two white males standing near the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail, which is adjacent to the parking lot. The males were able to leave the area before the officers could stop them for questioning though.

Fire investigators were also notified at the Drake Road incident of a three-alarm house fire less than a half-mile away in Lexington that had occurred about 90 minutes before the Arlington fire.

Fire investigators and police

officers from Arlington and Lexington compared descriptions of the two males at both fires and determined they were most probably the same individuals.

One suspect was identified and a warrant check revealed there was a default warrant outstanding from the Department of Youth Services. The suspect was arrested by Arlington Police and transferred to DYS.

A task force, comprised of Arlington and Lexington Fire investigators, Arlington and Lexington police detectives and fire investigators from the State Fire Marshal's Office, was created to investigate the fires. Working on interviews from witnesses at the two fires, investigators identified the other suspect as an Arlington teenager.

On Friday, June 25, the task force executed a search warrant for one of the Arlington addresses. Based on evi-

dence obtained from that search and subsequent interviews the second suspect was arrested at his home on Friday evening, June 25.

William P. Minogue, 18, 97 Bow St., was charged in Arlington with the burning of a motor vehicle. He was then transported to Lexington where he was charged, with two counts of attempt to commit a crime, to wit, one count of breaking and entering of a motor vehicle and one count of willful and malicious destruction of property more than \$250.

He was held over the weekend on \$50,000 cash bail and had to surrender his passport and airline tickets. He was arraigned in Concord District court on Monday, June 28.

The task force is continuing the criminal investigation and more charges may be filed.

Submitted by the Arlington Fire and Police departments.

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ROBBINS LIBRARY NEWS

Concert series
begins tonight

The 2004 Summer Concert Series on the Robbins House Green begins tonight, July 15 with "Sulinha and Friends." Sulinha will be accompanied by Catherine Birrer on percussions and Sam Hooper on guitar and vocals. In addition to their standard children's repertoire, the trio will add a little spice to the show with some Latin jazz.

The concerts all begin at 6 p.m. on the Robbins House Green behind the Robbins Library, 700 Massachusetts Ave.

All programs are free and open to the public. The concerts are sponsored by the Russell Trust Fund. Visit the Robbins Library Web site at www.robbinslibrary.org.

Game night
at library

Are you bored with the same old card games you play at home?

If so, the Children's Room at Robbins Library in conjunction with game company, Gamewright, is having an instructional and hands on "Gamewright Game Night: A Night of Game Playing Madness" on Thursday, July 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

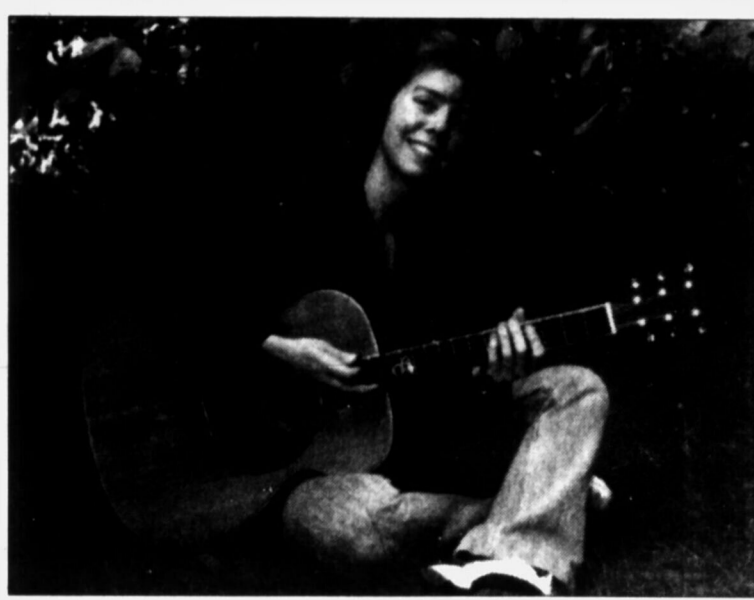
Jason Schneider, product development and marketing manager of Gamewright, a division of Ceaco, Inc., based in Watertown, will introduce parents and children to many of their award winning games, such as "Slamwich" (a fun spin on the popular "slapjack" game), "Rat-a-Tat-Cat" as well as "The Scrambled States of America" (a game for children 8 and up).

Schneider and his Gamewright team have previously appeared at the Arlington Boys and Girls Club as well as the Brackett and Thompson Elementary schools.

The game night will also expose children to the latest card and board games by Gamewright that are not yet on the market. The children's feedback and exploration with the latest creations from Gamewright could become tomorrow's latest card craze. Children are encouraged to come with a parent, bring a friend, or meet a new game partner at the program in order to experience new ways to shuffle and deal up some fun this summer.

Info available for
small businesses

The Robbins Library offers access to a wealth of information designed to help small business owners. The collection in the 650s targets books



Sulinha and Friends will perform at Robbins Library tonight.

on ideas for home-based business, books on using the Internet to promote your business, personnel issues, sales, direct marketing and women in business.

The Employment and Education Room offers books on schooling and careers in specific fields of interest. Watch for book displays in the Reference Room in July, August and September.

Helpful sources are available in the Reference Department as well. If you need a supplier of a product or a list of contacts for a particular

line of business, "Thomas' Directory of American Manufacturers" has thousands of listings. "The Encyclopedia of Associations" supplies contact information related to all subjects and professional groups.

New editions of the "Massachusetts Manufacturer's Directory" and the "Dun & Bradstreet Regional Business Directory" are located at the Reference Desk.

Expanding your market? "Reference USA" is an online database, which locates companies both profit and non-profit accessed by name, type of business and geographic areas. You may print lists for .15/page.

If you have a suggestion for a title to purchase or to receive on interlibrary loan or other business reference question, please call us at the Reference Desk.

Call 781-316-3233.

Comic book
workshop

On Thursday, July 22, Jordan Rountree will give a workshop on comic books for children and teens.

Jordan is 14 years old and has studied comics since he was 8. He has studied art and comic books in France at the Louvre.

The workshop will consist of a discussion of comic books both American and European and then a lesson in creating a comic book. Come to the Children's Room at Robbins Library at 7 p.m. The workshop will last until 9 p.m.

Call to sign up, 781-316-3235.



ROBBINS LIBRARY

Ensemble slithers their way to
Chamber summer concert series

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce's "Arlington at Night" free summer concert series will continue Wednesday, July 21 with Revolutionary Snake Ensemble.

The concert will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the Jefferson Cutter House lawn in Arlington Center.

Revolutionary Snake Ensemble is described as a funk and street beat brass band, playing New Orleans and other modern improvised celebratory music. Citizens Bank will sponsor the event and Bombay Classic Indian Cuisine and Flora will offer food. The Arlington Center for the Arts and Com-

cast will also attend the event.

This year's series is truly a Chamber enterprise with member involvement from beginning to end. Produced by Firefly at Night, each concert is exclusively sponsored by a different Chamber business. Chamber food establishments will prepare picnic food for sale. The Arlington Advocate is the event media sponsor and the videotaped series will be broadcast on Comcast's cable channel.

New this year, concert program advertisers (all members) will be on hand with raffles and giveaways. The remaining concert is:

• July 28: The Regent Theatre presents Entre Amigos, a band that plays classics from the Brazilian samba and bossa nova repertoire. Food will span the globe as Olé Mexican Grill and Café Levonya tickle our palates with international dishes. On hand for the last concert will be RCN, BoGy Access and Hawthorn Suites.

For further information about the event, call 781-643-4600, visit www.fireflyatnight.com or send an e-mail to the Chamber at info@arlingtonchamberofcommerce.org. Rain dates will take place the following evening.

Kaufman will meet constituents at Panera

Rep. Jay Kaufman, who represents Arlington precincts 14, 17, 20 and 21 in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, invites all interested resi-

dents to drop in for his Arlington office hours this month.

He will be at Panera Bread, 1398 Massachusetts Ave., on Tuesday, July 20 from 8-9 a.m.

for "Coffee and Conversation." You may also meet with Rep. Kaufman by appointment through his office at 617-722-2552.

OPINION

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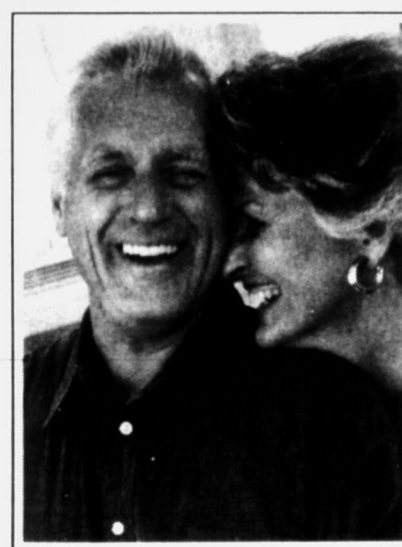


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Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shelter's closing sad news for cats, animal lovers

Alliance for Animals recently decided to close its no-kill Arlington cat shelter, which has been in the community for 10 years. The shelter found homes for thousands of cats since it opened in Arlington.

The announcement Afa is leaving town is sad for anyone who is interested in the welfare of animals. The shelter is not being closed because it failed. In fact, the Arlington shelter was a success.

However, in light of difficult financial times for charities, Afa has decided to focus its energies on its South Boston low-cost veterinary clinic.

The organization will reorganize its South Boston office to make room for animals available for adoption — though there won't be a dedicated space as large as the Arlington shelter. Eventually, Afa would like to find one building large enough to house both the clinic and shelter in Boston.

We wish Afa good luck in their future endeavors. Low-cost veterinary work is needed, especially to limit the pet population.

However, Afa's decision leaves a hole in Arlington that we must fill.

Let's work together to build another group — one that saves the lives of both cats and dogs.

Arlington has the foundation to make another shelter work. There are loads of former Afa volunteers who have a background in animal shelters, numerous others who would donate their time and money to open a facility and a community that wants to help four-legged friends.

Creating a new organization and shelter will be a lengthy process, but we must start now. There are animals being destroyed in pounds each day. Animals may be safe in no-kill shelters, but there are also homeless animals on the streets that aren't able to find a home if turnover isn't high enough in the no-kill facilities.

Our companion animals give so much to us. They only ask for our love and protection in return. It is up to us to help them.

Let's take this negative and turn it into a positive. Rover and Fluffy would do it for us.

Afa's decision leaves a hole in Arlington that we must fill. Let's work together to build another group — one that saves the lives of both cats and dogs.

Critical of Marzilli's stance

Rep. James Marzilli has filed a complaint with the state Ethics Commission over Governor Mitt Romney's comments on the Democratic vice presidential pick ("Marzilli cries foul over Romney press conference," July 8 Advocate).

Governors are partisan political animals and use the trappings of their office to make partisan comments. Just as Mr. Marzilli is using his office to make a partisan political statement. I have yet to hear him criticize the speaker of the house, the Senate president or the attorney general when they use their office to make blatantly partisan statements. They are all elected in partisan elections and the public expect to hear these kind of comments from them.

Mr. Marzilli was present at the Arlington High School Class of 2004 graduation when the Chairman of the School Committee Paul Schlichtman went into his 25-minute Dean-esque rant about his political views. Mr. Schlichtman used the trapping of his nonpartisan office and a nonpartisan publicly sponsored event to vent his spleen.

Where was Mr. Marzilli on that occasion and how conspicuous was his silence when myself and others complained about them. Then again, Mr. Schlichtman is one of his Democratic allies so there is a different standard.

I think it's about time Mr. Marzilli stopped tilting at windmills and found some real dragons to slay.

Frederick J. Sennott Jr.
Brattle Street

Truck ban is a bad idea

I was surprised to return from vacation and discover state Rep. Jim Marzilli had tried to slip a truck ban from noon to 6 a.m. on Pleasant and Medford streets into a budget bill ("Romney vetoes impact projects," July 8 Advocate).

Mr. Marzilli is correct when he says it won't cost the state much. It will cost all of you. Every resident of Arlington obtains goods and services by truck and a truck ban can only increase the delivery costs. If trucks from Boston are forced into a circuitous route, coming in from the west on Route 2, it could add a couple hours to their delivery time.

There are no current alternatives to Pleasant Street and Medford Street other than the steep Park Avenue hill. Do you really want 12,000 gallon gasoline tankers going down Park Avenue?

Do you really want 24 hours worth of deliveries squeezed into six hours, including the morning commute? Imagine what the morning commute will be with all the deliveries for the day taking place at the same time.

I'm glad Governor Romney did his job and vetoed a truck ban line item that had nothing to do with a budget and was harmful to the general public.

Ed Trembly
Wright Street

NStar needs to do some explaining

I feel I must comment on the letter in last week's Advocate from Jennifer Gugliotti regarding power outages in Arlington Heights ("Questions explanation"). The residents of East Arlington feel her pain.

We too are subjected to "regular" outages at 6:15 a.m., sometimes earlier or later in the morning, and frequently at 3:15 p.m. It is exasperating to have to re-set the clocks, the microwave, coffee maker and most tiresome — the telephone.

I agree with Ms. Gugliotti we cannot accept NStar's excuse that these outages are caused by squirrels biting through the power lines. (I have not seen even one dead squirrel.)

They certainly cannot attribute the "blips" to a power demand. I believe there are very few residents who are using their air conditioners as yet.

I hope there will be a response from NStar in your newspaper in the very near future.

Nancy Pappas
Massachusetts Avenue

Friends laud motion

Arlington and Belmont leaders' statements at the June 28 Belmont selectmen's meeting, to lay off the Belmont Uplands for now, was of great consolation and encouragement to the Friends of Alewife Reservation ("Communities agree on Uplands," July 1 Advocate).

The motions passed by Belmont were a true act of benevolence on behalf of the area's environmental sensitivity, especially the unique silver maple forest which performs flooding, wildlife and climate control functions. However, it is questionable whether this is a definitive preservation victory. The office building proposal is still on the table with the state. Mr. O'Neill, the owner of the property, can place the woods on the chopping block for the next developer to hasten its demise.

The reservation's ecosystems — the forest's proper floodplain and wetland functions are of benefit to those who live in the Winn Brook and Highlands neighborhoods in Belmont. However, the state Sen. Robert Havern motion will change the nature of the Uplands issue exclusively to needs of residential home owners and commuters.

Sen. Havern's Bill 2305 requires a study of the proposed development, traffic, flood control, air quality and pedestrian safety on Alewife's watershed, but omits essential aspects of the watershed environment which have needed study for years. Traffic impacts on air quality are not the same as climatic impacts from forest removal or impervious surface heating.

This is the appropriate time to emphasize what the watershed provides: public and private groundwater supply, flood control, pollution pre-

vention, wildlife habitat, fish habitat, beauty, educational resources and temperature control.

We hope local community leaders will educate their constituencies about Alewife Reservation and will open the dialogue to understanding it with a perspective beyond flooding, sharing knowledge about ecological processes and environmental functions of the Alewife ecosystem.

East Arlington neighbors have a right to know about their woods environment, its function in protecting their homes, keeping their neighborhoods full of biodiversity and cooler in the summertime. Municipalities must not be let off the expensive hook of stopping the contamination flowing into our rivers and streams.

Conservation must not be an antiquated word in the watersheds of the Charles and Mystic rivers, but a daily practice. FAR continues to expand its envisioning committee to work with master planners on making a regional center for environmental conservation and education of the Alewife Reservation and its buffers.

The reservation has little chance of surviving as a viable wetland without this level of monitored protection. Please join our efforts at 617-547-1944 or 617-290-4864. The Web site for these and other Alewife Reservation related issues: www.friendsofalewifreservation.org.

Ellen Mass
Friends of Alewife
Reservation

Express yourself through laundry

I was telling my friend the other day that I express two of my strongest values through doing laundry: having a simple life and using as few of the earth's resources as possible.

Funny how these two values complement one another. I am always looking for ways to have more fun and less stress and if I can save the earth along the way, so much the better.

Let me elaborate on the laundry example: I have two kids and I do laundry once a week. Usually just two big loads: one darks and one lights. How is this possible?

Well, we don't systematically toss our clothes in the hamper at the end of the day, unless they really deserve it. And everyone gets fresh towels and fresh sheets slightly less often than June Cleaver would approve of. Maybe I'm wrong, but we're no dirtier or smellier than anyone else.

Maybe I spend two hours per week washing, drying and folding, but I am not overwhelmed by piles of clothes. This saves water and electricity, puts fewer detergent chemicals into the water supply and makes our clothes last longer.

And what about that other favorite chore: grocery shopping? I can't think of anything I'd rather do less than go to a crowded store with two kids in tow. All I can think is that they should be out on the playground getting fresh air and

exercise. So I try to reduce the number of times I go.

I spend a little time crafting a shopping list, which means doing the meal planning for the week and checking my list of staples, but it's worth the effort. I end up going once a week, supplemented here and there with a trip to the farm stand, a walk to Trader Joe's and home delivery of bulky items. I can deal with the \$5 delivery charge every few months.

Think about it: anytime you simplify your life, you are helping the environment. Running appliances less often saves water and electricity. Consolidating or cutting down on errands saves gas. Doing less saves time and prevents stress. Less stress means fewer medications and fewer trips to the doctor or therapist (which saves more gas). A simpler life leaves you more space to enjoy it. It turns out that a simplified life is good for the earth.

If this article is speaking to you, I recommend a great book, called "Your Money Or Your Life" by Dominguez and Robin. You can tell by the title it talks about how to spend less time running around in the rat race and more time enjoying yourself. It's also got a lot to say about how this sort of lifestyle is kinder to the earth. The book could just as easily be called "Your Stress Or Your Earth."

And if you're really interested, check out The Center For A New American Dream at www.newdream.org. Their motto is "More Fun, Less Stuff." It's quite family-oriented and full of good advice and information.

How refreshing to hear, for once, that by doing less, we are actually doing more. Simplifying your life will actually contribute more to you and to the earth.

Melissa Lucius
Hillside Avenue

Tap water is a lifesaving bargain

Fifty cents a day to keep your family healthy and safe seems like a pretty good deal to me. That's what our family pays for water, 50 cents a day. For this, we can turn on our tap and get water that is, the great majority of the time, clean, safe and free from deadly germs.

All over the world, water borne diseases have been huge killers for centuries. Until recently, it used to be common everywhere for people to die of cholera, typhoid and dysentery. In many parts of the world, this is still true.

In some poor countries, women and children rise before dawn to collect water for their families. They walk long distances carrying heavy containers of water, only to see family members sickened and die from that water.

In Arlington, all we have to do is turn on a tap. Although the public health, public works and government regulation systems that protect water quality in places like Arlington are not perfect, they are pretty good. Water borne illness does

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Letters to the editor policy

Do you have an opinion about a story you read? Do you disagree or agree with an editorial or another letter-writer? Are you pleased or displeased about something?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, let your voice be heard and write a letter to the editor.

To be published, here is a quick idea of what we want:

- A signature, your street address and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both. We will not print the information — only your name, street name, and title (where applicable). We will not print anonymous letters.

- Letters should be limited to 400 words.

- We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, and

civility. The Advocate respects differences of opinions, but we also demand respectful discourse.

- If we receive multiple letters on the same subject, we may run a sampling of opinion.

- The Advocate will not run letters from the same person in consecutive weeks.

- Letters must be dropped off at the Advocate drop box — Community Safety Building lobby, 112 Mystic St. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

- Readers can also fax their letters to 781-674-7735 by 5 p.m. Monday.

- E-mail is also an option at arlington@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

The Arlington Advocate

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Lexington, MA 02420

www.townonline.com/arlington

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